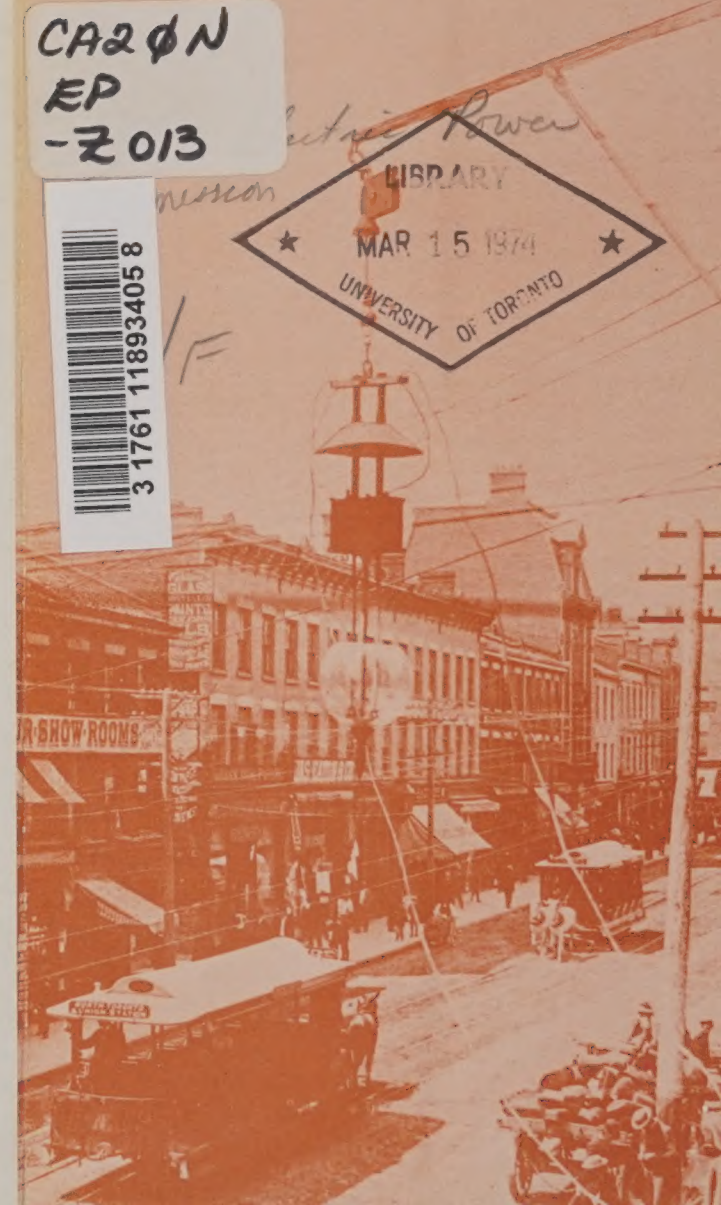
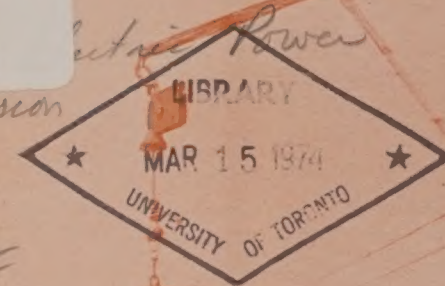
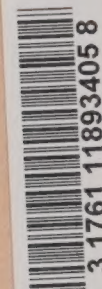


# hydro hall of memory



CA20N  
EP  
-Z 013



Part of the original Sir Adam Beck station  
now houses the Hydro Hall of Memory.

system from its beginning to the present. Other exhibits tell the story of electricity's role in the evolution of Ontario from an agricultural to an industrial economy.....progress in lighting methods.....vintage electrical equipment.....artifacts and documents related to the frontier days of our electrical society.....up to the present nuclear generation.

An archives section containing histories of the individual municipal utilities is available for reference.

Dedicated to those who conceived and pioneered the idea of public power in Ontario and those who followed in their footsteps, the Hydro Hall of Memory is a joint undertaking of Ontario Hydro, the Ontario Municipal Electric Association and the Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities, the three partners involved in providing electric power to the people of Ontario at cost.

Ontario Hydro is responsible for the generation and transmission of electricity and its sale to some 350 municipalities throughout the province for distribution to their customers. In effect, Ontario Hydro carries out a "wholesaler" function while the municipal utilities act as "retailers" of electric power.

The Ontario Municipal Electric Association is an organization of elected and appointed individuals who are responsible for policy within their own municipal utility.

The Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities is an organization of managers and senior staff responsible for the day-to-day operation of the individual utilities within the Hydro system.





*Each light represents one of the more than 350 municipal electric utilities across the province. Phones carry a recorded description of the growth of the electrical system.*



*Early lamps and appliances have a prominent place in the Hall of Memory display.*



*Panels depict the life and times of Ontario's electrical pioneers.*

The Hydro Hall of Memory is an account in graphic form of the dramatic story of electricity before the turn of the century and a chronicle of men and events involved in the origin and development of the public power movement in Ontario.

Told with the use of artifacts, photographs and displays, the pageant begins with conditions in Ontario before the coming of the electrical age. Developments are portrayed leading up to the great breakthrough—the first long-distance transmission of electric power for commercial purposes.

That transmission—from Niagara Falls to Buffalo, New York—is recorded in the Hall of Memory as the beginning of the second industrial revolution. Recorded, too, is the role played by civic and business leaders seeking a low-cost source of energy to run the province's industries.

Without coal resources, electric power was the obvious answer.

Electricity was available in parts of Ontario by the end of the 19th century but rates were exorbitant and the supply limited. This led to the demand for publicly-owned power and the emergence of a determined breed of men whose wisdom and foresight were to have a profound effect on the development of Ontario as Canada's leading province.

The towering figure of Sir Adam Beck and the drive and direction he gave to the public power movement are depicted in the Hall of Memory as step by hard-won step the public power advocates took their fight from small meeting halls to the floor of the Ontario Legislature. Victory came in 1906 with the creation of Ontario Hydro with Sir Adam as chairman.

Also recorded in this unique hall of electrical

history are the major events that followed.....construction of the first transmission line from Niagara Falls.....the struggle of Ontario Hydro and its municipal partners for survival against private power interests.....events and controversies climaxed by the construction and official opening in 1921 of the Queenston-Chippawa generating station—then the largest hydro-electric generating station in the world.

Now known as the Sir Adam Beck-Niagara Generating Station No. 1, it is appropriate that it should house the Hydro Hall of Memory because it was the first major station constructed by Ontario Hydro and was the forerunner of many more great hydraulic and thermal installations now bringing power to all corners of the province.

Visitors entering the Hall of Memory are confronted with a large, electronically-illustrated map tracing the growth of the municipal Hydro